CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A latch assembly comprising:

a latch including a mouth and a latch bolt moveable in a first plane, the mouth including a first wedge arrangement having a first abutment surface and a second abutment surface and the first wedge arrangement is provided laterally of the striker bar, wherein the latch is mountable to one of a first vehicle door and one of a vehicle body and a second vehicle door; and

a striker including a striker bar and a second wedge arrangement having a third abutment surface and a fourth abutment surface, wherein the second wedge arrangement is provided laterally with respect to the latch bolt of the latch and the striker is mountable to the other of the first vehicle door and the other of the vehicle door and the second vehicle door, and wherein engagement of the latch bolt of the latch and the striker releasably secures the first vehicle door to the one of the vehicle body and the second vehicle door by relative displacement of the latch towards the striker, and wherein the first wedge arrangement and the second wedge arrangement prevent movement between the latch and the striker in a direction substantially parallel to the first plane when the latch assembly is in a latched condition, the first abutment surface and the second abutment surface engage the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface.

2. The assembly according to claim 1 wherein the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface include a guide arrangement to assist the latch in engagement with the striker during relative displacement of the latch towards the striker.

3. The assembly according to claim 1 wherein the first abutment surface includes a third region and the fourth abutment surface includes a second region substantially parallel to the first region.

4. The assembly according to any claim 1 wherein at least one of the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface includes a substantially planar region.

5. The assembly according to any claim 1 wherein the third abutment surface and the fourth surface are proximate to the striker bar.

6. The assembly according to claim 5 wherein the striker includes a first arm and a second arm that retain ends of the striker bar.

7. The assembly according to claim 6 wherein the third abutment surface and the fourth surface abutment are provided on at least one of the first arm and the second arm.

8. The assembly according to claim 7 wherein at least one of the first arm and the second arm is a metal plate that at least partially encircles the striker bar and provide the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface.

9. The assembly according to claim 6 wherein the first arm and the second arm are integral with a structure that mounts the striker to the one of the first vehicle door and the one of the second vehicle door and the vehicle body.

10. The assembly according to claim 1 wherein the first abutment surface and the second abutment surface are resilient.

11. The assembly according to claim 1 wherein the first abutment surface includes a first region and the second abutment surface includes a second region substantially parallel to the first region, and wherein the first region and the second region are separated by a striker spacing.

12. The assembly according to claim 1 wherein the third abutment surface includes a third region and the fourth abutment surface includes a fourth region substantially parallel to the third region, wherein the third region and the fourth region are separated by a latch spacing, and wherein the striker spacing is less than the latch spacing.

13. The assembly according to claim 1 wherein the third abutment surface includes a third region and the fourth abutment surface includes a fourth region substantially parallel to the third region.

14. A latch assembly comprising:

a latch including a mouth and a latch bolt moveable in a first plane, the mouth including a first abutment surface having a first region and a second abutment surface having a second region substantially parallel to the first region, wherein the latch is mountable to one of a first vehicle door and one of a vehicle body and a second vehicle door;

a striker including a striker bar, a third abutment surface and a fourth abutment surface, wherein the striker is mountable to the other of the first vehicle door and the other of the vehicle body and the second vehicle door, and wherein engagement of the latch bolt of the latch and the striker releasably secures the first vehicle door to the one of the vehicle body and the second vehicle door by relative displacement of the latch towards the striker; and

a vertical wedge arrangement to prevent movement between the latch and the striker in a direction substantially parallel to the first plane when the latch assembly is in the latched condition, and the first abutment surface and the second abutment surface engage the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface.

15. The assembly according to claim 14 wherein the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface include a guide arrangement to assist the latch in engagement with the striker during relative displacement of the latch towards the striker.

16. The assembly according to claim 14 wherein at least one of the third abutment surface and the fourth abutment surface include a substantially planar region.

17. The assembly according to claim 14 wherein the first abutment surface and the second abutment surface are resilient.

18. The assembly according to claim 14 wherein the first abutment surface includes a first region and the second abutment surface includes a second region substantially parallel to the first region, and the first region and the second region are separated by a striker spacing.

19. The assembly according to claim 18 wherein the third region and the fourth region are separated by a latch spacing, and wherein the striker spacing is less than the latch spacing.

20. A striker for releasable securement to a latch including a latch bolt having a mouth, the striker comprising:

a mounting portion;

a striker bar to releasably retain the latch bolt; and

a first planar surface and a second planar surface substantially parallel to the first planar surface and arranged to engage the mouth of the latch and to substantially prevent relative deflection perpendicular to a plane of the first planar surface and the second planar surface.